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ABSTRACT

Noting that parents are vital partners in the educational system, this handbook provides parents with information about the Grade 9 curriculum in Catholic schools in Alberta, Canada. Based on the Alberta Learning "Programs of Study: Junior High Schools," the handbook describes the knowledge, skills, and attitudes Catholic school students in Alberta are expected to demonstrate upon completion of the Grade 9 curriculum. Following introductory material that includes information on aboriginal education, supports for learning, and assessment, the handbook's sections are: (1) "Overview of Grade 9"; (2) "Religious Education"; (3) "English Language Arts"; (4) "Mathematics"; (5) "Science"; (6) "Social Studies"; (7) "Information and Communication Technology"; (8) "Physical Education"; (9) "Health and Life Skills"; and (10) optional courses in Career and Technology Studies, Fine and Performing Arts, Languages Other Than English, and other courses such as Environmental and Outdoor Education and Ethics. Sections on Personal and Career Development and on Planning for Senior High School are included. Each section includes samples of what students are expected to learn in each subject. The handbook concludes with a one-page questionnaire requesting feedback on the handbook. (HTH)

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ED 469 838

# Curriculum Handbook *for* Parents

**2002–2003**

## Catholic School Version

GRADE 9 NINE

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Fax: 780–422–9750
Internet: http://www.lrc.learning.gov.ab.ca

Telephone numbers of branches referred to in this handbook can be reached, toll free inside Alberta, by dialing 310–0000.

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Alberta Learning gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the Alberta Home and School Councils' Association in facilitating parent input into this Curriculum Handbook.



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# Curriculum Handbook *for* **Parents**

**2002–2003**

Catholic School Version

GRADE **9**

This Curriculum Handbook provides parents with information about the Grade 9 curriculum. It includes:

- the expectations of the Catholic Religious Education Program
- selected learning outcomes for each subject area from the provincial curriculum
- links to the Alberta Learning Web site where more information can be found
- information on personal and career development and planning for senior high school
- a feedback form.

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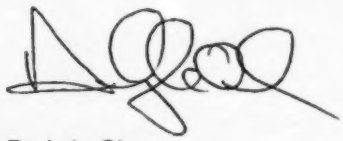
*Message from the*
## Minister of Learning

Alberta has one of the best education systems in the world. One of our many strengths is our excellent curriculum. It ensures that Alberta students have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to be self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing members of society.

As a parent, you play a vital role in the education of your child. When you know what your child is learning in school, you are able to reinforce that learning at home. In order to help parents in this process, Alberta Learning has published the *Curriculum Handbook for Parents* series. We are excited that this year's edition was redesigned with input from parents. The *Handbook* has been modified to have more parent-focused information in a user-friendly format.

In addition to a strong curriculum, there are many other reasons why we have a world-class learning system. Our system offers parents choices in the type of education that will best meet the needs of their children. It provides innovative and quality learning opportunities for future success. Also, another vital component is that all education partners, including parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, trustees and other members of our community, work collaboratively to ensure our learning system continually meets the needs of students.

Alberta students are our future. Together, we can ensure that every student has a solid foundation from which to learn, grow and succeed.



Dr. Lyle Oberg
Minister of Learning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Dear Parents and Guardians:

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Alberta, I welcome this opportunity to affirm you in your role as parents in the education of your children and wish to express my appreciation to the Government of Alberta and Alberta Learning for this 'Curriculum Handbook for Parents'.

The Church has always recognized with confidence that you, parents, are the first and primary educators of your children, especially with regards to education in the faith. This is a noble, yet, challenging calling that is rightfully yours. Today, therefore, because of the many diverse pressures and influences on our children, your role is vital in working with our schools to continue to provide the best possible education for our children. To those of you who have entrusted your children to a Catholic school be assured that it is with great respect for these facts that we support you in your role. I encourage you to work closely with our Catholic schools by joining your local school councils or parent groups. Be a strong voice for the Catholic identity of schools. In this regard, you will share in a concrete and invaluable way in the central mission of the Church which is to proclaim Jesus and his Gospel in the world today and, in so doing, hand on our faith to our children.

I commend Alberta Learning for providing parents with this practical Curriculum Handbook. It is a clear presentation of what parents can expect of our Alberta schools, Public and Catholic, and by its very existence also acknowledges how important you are as parents in your children's education. In it, you will find a comprehensive presentation of the content and expectations of the Religious Education Program approved by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. It reflects the essential character of Catholic schools as communities of learning.

+ Thomas Collins

Thomas Collins
Archbishop of Edmonton
President, Alberta Conference of Catholic Bishops

8421 – 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6A 0L1 ♦ Tel.: (780) 469–1010 ♦ Fax: (780) 465–3003


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# *Information for Parents*

Web site links for further information are provided throughout the handbook.

Students learn in a variety of environments—in their homes, schools and communities. Parents, teachers and community members form a partnership to assist this learning.

When parents know what children are studying at school, they can provide better home support for their children's learning.

Parents can access information about the curriculum and learning resources in a number of ways:

- They can communicate with teachers or the school.
- http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/parent.asp — **Curriculum Handbooks** contain selected outcomes for each subject area from the Alberta programs of study. They provide a more detailed picture of each year. This Curriculum Handbook is one of a set from Kindergarten to senior high school produced in general and Catholic versions, and in French. They are available on the Alberta Learning Web site or for purchase from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC).
- http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/parent.asp — **Curriculum Summaries** for each grade level provide a brief overview of each year. The summaries are available on the Alberta Learning Web site.
- http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/ — **Alberta Programs of Study** contain learning outcomes for each subject area from Kindergarten to Grade 12. They are available on the Alberta Learning Web site or for purchase from the LRC.
- http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/lrdb — The Authorized Resources Database on the Alberta Learning Web site lists **Alberta authorized student and teacher resources**, most of which are available for purchase from the LRC.
- http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca — The **Alberta Learning Web site** contains information on learning from the early years to adulthood.

## Helping Your Child at Home

Here are some important pointers for you to help your child learn.

- Be positive and encouraging in your approach to learning. It will help your child feel confident and enthusiastic about success.
- Talk to your child about schoolwork, and help with homework when you can.
- Help your child set realistic goals, and discuss progress in an encouraging way.
- Connect your child's schoolwork with everyday life, and use these opportunities for problem solving in everyday situations.
- Keep in touch with teachers about your child's progress, including successes and achievements, not just concerns.

The following resources may help you. Check your child's school for availability.

- *The Parent Advantage*—Tips and strategies for helping with homework in grades 1 through 9.
- *Make School Work for You*—Helping junior and senior high school students become more successful learners.
- http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/parents/mathprbk.pdf — *Working Together in Mathematics Education*—Ways parents can support student learning in mathematics.
- http://www.learnalberta.ca — *LearnAlberta.ca* Web site—Online multimedia learning resources that directly relate to the Alberta programs of study.
- http://www.2learn.ca/ — *TELUS 2Learn* Web site—An education–business partnership that provides Internet inservice, support and information for Alberta teachers, students and parents.


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## *Schooling in Alberta*

School provides students with a broad educational program that helps them:

- develop knowledge, skills and attitudes in a variety of subject areas
- demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills in problem solving and decision making
- demonstrate competence in using information technologies
- know how to learn and work independently and as part of a team
- develop desirable personal characteristics and the ability to make ethical decisions
- demonstrate initiative, leadership, flexibility and persistence
- have the desire and realize the need for lifelong learning.

Schools also prepare students to make positive contributions to society through communities, the workplace and/or post-secondary studies.

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/educationguide/default.asp

The *Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12*, available on the Alberta Learning Web site or for purchase from the LRC, provides general information about Kindergarten to Grade 12 schooling.

In Alberta, a **provincial curriculum** describes what students are expected to know and be able to do in each subject at each grade level. The provincial curriculum is organized into **programs of study**, which are developed by Alberta Learning in consultation with teachers, administrators, parents, representatives from post-secondary institutions, and professional and community groups.

Changes in curriculum are made to ensure that students across the province have the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to meet the demands of a complex and ever-changing world. Revisions may be minor, such as updating a resource list, or they may be major, when the needs of students and society change as new knowledge becomes available. Included in any major revision process is a review of learning and teaching resources and professional development needs of teachers.

Within the context of Catholic schools, the curriculum in all of its aspects—content, the teaching process, and the total school environment—reflect the values of faith, hope, charity, forgiveness and justice as found in the gospels and the message of Jesus Christ as understood by the Catholic Church.

Teachers make a number of decisions when planning for classroom instruction. Within any group of students, there is a range of individual differences. Teachers use the learning outcomes of the programs of study to meet the needs and interests of their students and to make connections across subject areas. They choose resources, equipment and materials to help students achieve the learning outcomes. Teaching methods and schedules vary from school to school and from class to class to meet the diverse learning needs of students.

In Catholic schools, there are many opportunities for integrating gospel values and nurturing the presence of God in our midst within the curriculum. Teachers will determine where religious education and Church teaching can be integrated with other subjects.


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Alberta Learning assists teachers by reviewing and selecting the best possible resources, such as textbooks, videotapes and computer software, for all subject areas. Authorization of resources by Alberta Learning indicates that the resources meet high standards and can help students achieve the learning outcomes. Teachers can choose other resources, as long as they follow school board policy.

http://www.lrc.learning.gov.ab.ca

Authorized resources are available for purchase from the LRC.

## *Aboriginal Education*

Aboriginal peoples throughout the province have indicated that they want their children to complete regular school requirements and achieve the same standards as set for all students in Alberta.

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/aborigin/default.asp

The term "Aboriginal" refers to First Nations, Métis and Inuit. To support the learning of Aboriginal students, schools are encouraged to use learning resources that give attention to Aboriginal heritage perspectives. In addition, all students in Alberta should understand and be aware of Aboriginal cultures, lifestyles and heritage. Student and teacher resources have been developed by Alberta Learning to assist teachers.

Both provincially and locally authorized Blackfoot and Cree language and culture courses are offered in the province.

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/specialneeds/teacherresourcescat.pdf

As well, *A Handbook for Aboriginal Parents of Children with Special Needs* provides information to assist Aboriginal parents in working with schools to meet the special needs of their children. This resource is available for purchase from the LRC.

*Our Treasured Children* is a videotape that complements *A Handbook for Aboriginal Parents of Children with Special Needs*. It highlights intergenerational stories from members of the Aboriginal community. The videotape is available for purchase from the LRC.

## *Supports for Learning*

In every classroom and every school, students have individual needs. Teachers ensure that all students are involved in activities that help them build on their own level of learning.

Alberta students learn in a variety of ways—in schools, in the community, in small and large groups, and independently. Schools, supported by Alberta Learning, provide a variety of programs and services.

### English as a Second Language

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/ESL/default.asp

Many children born in Canada have a first language other than English, and many students move here from non-English speaking countries. Schools provide additional assistance for English as a Second Language (ESL) students in Grade 1 to Grade 12. This helps them acquire sufficient fluency in English so they can integrate into the regular classroom as quickly as possible.


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## Special Needs

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/specialneeds/

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/educationguide/spec-ed/partners/intro.asp

School boards are required to provide each resident student with an education program, including access to special education programs. The following resources provide additional information. Check your child's school for availability.

- *Partners During Changing Times*—Information for parents of children with special needs
- *Programming for Students with Special Needs*—A series of resources containing information to help teachers better meet the needs of students, such as students who are gifted and talented, and those with learning disabilities, emotional disorders and/or mental illness

## Distance Learning

http://www.lrc.learning.gov.ab.ca

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/ltb/400/courses.html

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/ltb/400/eproduct.html

The Learning Technologies Branch (LTB) develops print materials and materials for online learning.

- For information about purchasing distance learning materials, contact the LRC.
- For a listing of all distance learning courses available for purchase or study, go to the LTB Courses Web page.
- To see what electronic products are available, visit the Electronic Products Web page.
- For information about registering in a distance learning course, contact a distance learning provider, such as the Alberta Distance Learning Centre.

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/fsl/team.asp

The French Language Services Branch develops distance learning courses for French language instruction. For courses available in French, contact the French Language Services Branch.

http://www.adlc.ca/home/

The Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) provides distance learning courses and programs to students throughout the province of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. It also serves a small number of Alberta students who are temporarily living in other provinces and countries. Students have the option of submitting assignments over the Internet. The ADLC also operates a virtual school.

## *Integrated Occupational Program (IOP)*

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/iop/default.asp

The Integrated Occupational Program (IOP) is a program of choice that begins in Grade 8, although students may also enter in grades 9, 10 or 11, and continues through Grade 12. Students who successfully complete the IOP earn a Certificate of Achievement.

IOP is designed for students whose learning styles, abilities and needs are best met through an integrated, real-life approach to teaching and learning. The courses provide functional and practical hands-on learning experiences.

IOP consists of core subjects and an occupational component. Community partnerships are integral to all IOP courses.

Core subjects include:

- English Language Arts 8, 9, 16, 26, 36
- Mathematics 8, 9, 16, 26
- Science 8, 9, 16, 26
- Social Studies 8, 9, 16, 26


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Occupational Component
- Practical Arts 8, 9
- Occupations 16, 26, 36

Practical Arts Grades 8 and 9 consist of Business Education, Personal and Public Services, and Technical/Occupational courses. Occupations 16, 26 and 36 courses are organized into eight occupational clusters: agribusiness, business and office operations, construction and fabrication, creative arts, natural resources, personal and public services, tourism and hospitality, and transportation.

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/iop/IOPmanual.pdf

For more information, refer to the *Integrated Occupational Program Information Manual for Administrators, Counsellors and Teachers*, 1994. The manual is available on the Alberta Learning Web site or for purchase from the LRC.

# *Assessment*

## Achievement Tests

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/testing/default.asp

As well as being assessed by their teachers, students write provincial achievement tests in grades 3, 6 and 9. Grade 3 students write tests in English language arts and mathematics; Grade 6 and Grade 9 students write tests in English language arts, social studies, mathematics and science.

Grade 3 students in Francophone and alternative French programs write the test in English language arts and the French form of the mathematics test. Students in Francophone and alternative French programs in grades 6 and 9 write the tests in English and French language arts and the French forms of the other subject area tests.

Group results of the achievement tests are provided to schools and school authorities, and summary results are provided on the Alberta Learning Web site. Individual student results are provided to the school for each student's educational record and are to be provided to the student's parents.

Information about provincial achievement testing in grades 3, 6 and 9 is available on the Alberta Learning Web site. As well, information is provided in the Alberta Learning publications entitled *Parent Guide to Provincial Achievement Testing* and *Guide des parents Programme des tests de rendement provinciaux*. The parent guides for Grade 3 and Grade 6 are available in elementary schools. The Grade 9 guide is available in junior high schools. These publications may also be obtained from the Learner Assessment Branch, Alberta Learning.


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## *School Councils*

http://www.ahsca.ab.ca

Schools, parents and communities all play an important role in education. School councils are designed to give parents, students, teachers and other community members meaningful involvement in decisions about policies, programs and services and the allocation of funds to support them within their schools. They may also be involved in fundraising for enhancements to core education programs. Each school council determines its own level of involvement, depending on local needs. Parents can get more information on how to get involved by contacting their local school or the Alberta Home and School Councils Association.

## *School Fundraising and Fees*

http://www.asba.ab.ca/advisories/policy-fundraising.pdf

Decisions regarding fundraising are made by the local board or by the school principal in consultation with the school council within policy guidelines established by the school board. In September 2000, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) developed and provided guidelines to school boards to assist boards in establishing appropriate local policy. The guidelines state fundraising should not be done for core items such as textbooks. Some fundraising is appropriate for things like athletics uniforms, field trips, and other extras that staff and parents want for their schools. Participation in fundraising activities should be voluntary. No student should be excluded from an event or program because the parents did not contribute.

http://www.asba.ab.ca/advisories/policy-fees.pdf

School fees are determined by the local school board or by the principal in consultation with the school council and within policy guidelines established by the board. Local policies can include waiving fees or extended payment allowances where parents are experiencing financial difficulties. In September 2000, the Alberta School Boards Association provided guidelines to school boards to assist them in establishing an appropriate policy. A primary objective is to ensure that fees are not being charged for core items. ASBA also advised boards that parents need to know what the funds will be used for and what will be done with any surplus funds.

Fees may be charged for supplies and materials provided for the student's personal use or consumption; this may include such things as calculators, locker rentals, student planners and computer diskettes. The fees charged are on a cost recovery basis.


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## *Overview of Grade 9*

In Grade 9, students study required subject areas. They also choose optional courses that give them the chance to explore areas of interest and career possibilities. Students have access to 950 hours of instruction during a school year.

In Catholic schools, students participate in a Religious Education Program that is authorized by the Bishop of the local diocese.

The Grade 9 Alberta program of studies for each subject area sets out general outcomes or topics that provide an overview of the important learnings students accomplish. Specific outcomes are included for each general outcome or topic and state in detail the knowledge, skills and attitudes students are working towards achieving.

This handbook contains:

- the general outcomes or topics for each subject area
- selected specific outcomes for most subject areas.

The programs of study, which include all the general and specific outcomes, are available on the Alberta Learning Web site or from the LRC.

| **Required Subject Areas.** ***Students take:*** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English Language Arts | Mathematics | Science | Social Studies | Physical Education | Health and Life Skills |
| Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is integrated throughout English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. | | | | | |

| **Optional Courses.** ***Students may select from:*** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Career and Technology Studies (CTS) | Fine and Performing Arts | Languages Other than English* | Environmental and Outdoor Education | Ethics | Locally Developed Courses |

* Students in French immersion programs and bilingual programs in other languages take English language arts as well as language arts in the target language. Students in immersion and bilingual programs also take a number of subjects in the target language.

New courses for the 2002–2003 school year:

- Health and Life Skills
- CTS (Communication Technology and Information Processing)

Courses under revision:

- Science
- Social Studies
- German Language and Culture
- Spanish Language and Culture
- Ukrainian Language Arts


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# *Religious Education*

Religious education is an essential and integral part of the life and culture of a Catholic school. Through it, students are invited to develop the knowledge, beliefs, skills, values and attitudes needed to build a relationship with God and community through the person of Jesus Christ. Religious education shares the same goals and objectives set forth for all good education, that is, the growth and development of the whole person in all his or her dimensions—physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual.

***Religious education has four essential characteristics.***

It is **Trinitarian**. It recognizes God as the creator of all things who gives us Jesus. It is Jesus who reveals God to us, and in turn reveals God's Spirit, through whom we understand our faith.

It is based on **Sacred Scripture** through which we hear the mystery of God revealed, the call to be in relationship with God and each other, and we learn how to pray.

It is based on the **life experience** of the students through which they are invited to discern signs of God in their daily lives.

It is presented within the tradition of the **Catholic faith community** which, based on Church teachings, sacramental and liturgical life, provides students with experiences of faith, prayer, love and justice.

With an awareness of the uniqueness of each student and a recognition that religious development takes place through a process of stages and within a community, it is expected that program presentation will vary from place to place to meet the diverse learning and religious formation needs of all students.

The Religious Education Program for elementary and junior high schools is authorized by the Bishop of the local diocese. Some school districts have developed supplementary resources and adapted the program to better meet local needs.

The Grade 9 program assists young people in understanding both the joy and the demands of following in the way of Christ and living out the faith that our community professes in the Creed. Using the Beatitudes as a touchstone, young people are invited to examine the attitudes and actions that characterize the Christian life. They are encouraged to understand and nurture within themselves the virtues which will enable them to deepen their relationship with God in and through Christ in the context of a spirit-filled community.

***Students explore these themes through the study of ten units:***

**Unit 1** **Be with Me.**

The students will examine the qualities of relationships. They will identify ways that the Beatitudes help us to understand the distinctive Christian attitudes that shape wholesome relationships. The Ten Commandments and Beatitudes are seen as stepping stones that show the way to true happiness and friendship with God and others.


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**Unit 2** — **Be Alive.**

The students are invited to deepen their appreciation for the gift of life, and as they become increasingly aware of their gifts and abilities through the mystery of the Incarnation. Jesus affirms the dignity of every person and the sacredness of the human body. The 5th Commandment underlines the sacredness of human life from the moment of conception to the moment of death. Emotions are a gift that help us to relate to God and others. Our faith guides our expression of emotion so that we relate to others in a responsible and loving way. "Blessed are the peacemakers."

**Unit 3** — **Be Faithful.**

The students are introduced to the virtue of faithfulness as an attitude that encourages them to involve God in their lives. The 1st and 2nd Commandments are seen as a call to love and respect God above everything. The students will deepen their understanding of prayer as a lived relationship with God, and the 3rd Commandment as a call to "stop and pray." They will describe and demonstrate a variety of forms of prayer and articulate the different ways God responds to prayer. "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

**Unit 4** — **Be Loving.**

The students will explore the Christian dimensions of love within the context of popular notions of love. They will analyze ways they love others and articulate what it means to be loved and to love unconditionally. They will review and apply a decision-making model, define conscience, and name its role in moral decision making. Within the context of the 6th Commandment as a protection for the sacred bonds of committed love, the students will explain how sexuality helps them to love, identify acceptable Christian expressions of love, and analyze sexual issues in relation to the virtue of chastity. They will identify signs of manipulative, coercive and abusive behaviours in relationships and demonstrate an understanding of the assertiveness skills necessary for developing and maintaining healthy relationships. "Blessed are the peacemakers."

**Unit 5** — **Be Obedient.**

The students will explain and interpret the 4th Commandment as it applies to families and identify the roles, duties and responsibilities that are shared within Christian families. They will recognize legitimate authority within various sectors of society: school, civic community, Church, and identify, explain and affirm their respective duties.

**Unit 6** — **Be Just.**

The students will identify social justice issues and use the preferential option for the poor as the criterion for analyzing issues of injustice. They will demonstrate an understanding that Christian justice is rooted in love, mercy and compassion. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. The students will also evaluate their lifestyle in terms of its ecological impact and identify the correlation between their relationship with God and their relationship with others and the earth. "Blessed are the meek."


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**Unit 7** **Be Honest.**

The students will define stewardship in terms of respect for the goods and property of another. They will identify the balance between the right to own and the requirement to share. The students will explain the role of truthfulness in relationships and recognize God as the source of absolute truth and they will evaluate their own behaviour in light of the 7th and 8th Commandments.

**Unit 8** **Be Generous.**

The students will understand how Jesus models a generous attitude toward others and enables us to rejoice in our own and in other's good fortune, happiness and blessing. They will define pure of heart, modesty and envy, comparing and contrasting common attitudes in society with the 9th and 10th Commandments. These commandments will be used as a tool for critical reflection on career and life skills planning. "Blessed are the pure of heart."

**Unit 9** **Be Forgiving.**

The students will define forgiveness, examine the ways Jesus models forgiveness, and identify areas in their life where they are called to forgive. They will understand reconciliation, give examples of how it restores and heals relationships, and explain how the Church enables and facilitates reconciliation. "Blessed are the merciful."

**Unit 10** **Be Hopeful.**

The students will understand hope and its role in Christian living and explore the ways that prayer nourishes hope. They will identify people who model Christian hope and examine the 1st Commandment as a call to place all our hope in God. A review of the Virtues and Beatitudes that underlie the Christian lifestyle will culminate in a celebration of faith. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven."

***As a result of participation in this program, students will:***

- demonstrate a familiarity with and an ability to retell key biblical narratives that illustrate God's faithful relationship with a chosen people and the community's response to this relationship
- express connections between the relationships described in biblical events and their own life experiences
- show reverence for Scripture as God's living Word
- define human dignity and express its significance in Christian faith and practice
- name the articles of the Apostles' Creed as a summary expression of the Christian community's relationship with God and articulate some of the meaning of each article
- communicate their faith in ways that show a genuine understanding of the Apostles' Creed
- describe how the Creed is a summary of the faith community's understanding of who God is
- explain how the Creed calls them to make responsible choices and decisions in their everyday lives


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- analyze (critique) events and personal decisions in light of a commitment to follow Jesus
- describe the relationship between real-life situations and the baptismal commitment to follow Jesus in the community of the Holy Spirit
- outline the ways that prayer deepens a relationship with God
- pray, using a variety of prayer styles
- participate in traditional forms of Catholic prayer.

The school, through the Religious Education Program, complements parents in their role as primary and principal educators of their children. Home and family play a vitally important role in the faith development of children. Within the family, seeds of faith are planted. Family relationships and daily experiences are major factors in shaping a child's values, attitudes and Catholic identity. Regular religious practice and the application of classroom learning to daily life are critical parts of religious formation.

Prayer is an integral part of the Religious Education Program and of each school day since intimacy with God is the ultimate goal of Catechesis. Respecting the individual differences of children and our changing human needs, prayer is experienced in many different ways: silent reflection, guided imagery, scriptural prayer, song and formal community prayer. As we enter into prayer, we give praise and thanks for God's loving presence and call upon the Spirit to guide, nourish and empower our lives through Jesus Christ.

Teaching the sacraments occurs within the Religious Education Program. Sacraments celebrate the presence of Christ in our lives. They are effective signs that make God's grace present to us in love, healing and the transformation of our lives. Eucharist and Reconciliation are an essential part of each child's religious formation and a necessary grounding for a mature faith. As with many basic themes, Eucharist and Reconciliation are introduced in Grade 1, but continue to be deepened and intensified in each year thereafter. Children who have not yet celebrated First Communion or First Reconciliation are always welcome to contact their parish to begin their immediate preparation for the sacraments.

The Religious Education Program interprets for the students what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches about our faith in a manner appropriate to the age and development of the students. Not everything in the Catechism is incorporated because, as the Catechism itself points out, what is taught must be adapted to the "differences of culture, age, spiritual maturity, and social and ecclesial conditions among all those to whom it is addressed" (#24). Specific excerpts are quoted at the end of each theme for the teacher to help root the contents and activities of the theme in Church tradition.

The Religious Education Program is structured around the Church liturgical year. This enables students to live and express faith in an integrated way at school, at home and in the parish community.


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## *Required Subject Areas*

The required subject areas are the foundation of the junior high school program.

| Required Subject Areas. *Students take:* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English Language Arts | Mathematics | Science | Social Studies | Physical Education | Health and Life Skills |
| Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is integrated throughout English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. | | | | | |

## English Language Arts

The aim of the English language arts program is to enable students to understand and appreciate language, and to use it confidently and competently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and learning.

View the English language arts subject page at http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/english/

From Kindergarten to Grade 12, students are developing knowledge, skills and attitudes in six language arts: Listening and Speaking; Reading and Writing; Viewing and Representing. Students learn to compose, comprehend and respond to oral, print and other media texts. They experience a variety of texts from many cultural traditions.

In a Catholic school, students are invited to consider how the knowledge, skills and values studied within the language arts curriculum are integrated with other subject areas, including religious education and reflect the Catholic identity of the school.

**The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 9 English Language Arts Program of Studies.**

**Explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences**

- talk with others and experience a variety of oral, print and other media texts to explore, develop and justify own opinions and points of view
- reflect on own growth in language learning and use, by considering progress over time and the attainment of personal goals
- integrate own perspectives and interpretations with new understandings developed through discussing and through experiencing a variety of oral, print and other media texts
- examine and re-examine ideas, information and experiences from different points of view to find patterns and see relationships

**Comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other media texts**

- discuss how interpretations of the same text might vary, according to the prior knowledge and experiences of various readers
- identify explicit and implicit ideas and information in texts; listen and respond to various interpretations of the same text
- apply and explain effective procedures for identifying and comprehending words in context; adjust procedures according to the purpose for reading and the complexity of the texts
- identify and discuss theme and point of view in oral, print and other media texts


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- identify ways that a change in narrator might affect the overall meaning of oral, print and other media texts
- create oral, print and other media texts that interrelate plot, setting and character, and reveal the significance of the action

**Manage ideas and information**

- synthesize ideas and information from a variety of sources to develop own opinions, points of view and general impressions
- select types and sources of information to achieve an effective balance between researched information and own ideas
- distinguish between primary and secondary sources, and determine the usefulness of each for research purposes
- use own words to summarize and record information in a variety of forms; paraphrase and/or quote relevant facts and opinions; reference sources
- communicate ideas and information in a variety of oral, print and other media texts, such as media scripts, multimedia presentations, panel discussions and articles
- reflect on the research process, identifying areas of strength and ways to improve further research activities

**Enhance the clarity and artistry of communication**

- revise to ensure effective introductions, consistent points of view, effective transitions between ideas and appropriate conclusions
- develop personal handwriting styles appropriate for a variety of purposes
- identify and experiment with some principles of design that enhance the presentation of texts
- use a variety of strategies to make effective transitions between sentences and paragraphs in own writing
- demonstrate the deliberate, conscientious and independent application of a variety of editing and proofreading strategies to confirm spellings in own writing
- select, organize and present information to appeal to the interests and background knowledge of various readers or audiences
- follow the train of thought, and evaluate the credibility of the presenter and the evidence provided

**Respect, support and collaborate with others**

- analyze how oral, print and other media texts reflect the traditions, beliefs and technologies of different cultures, communities or periods in history
- create or use oral, print and other media texts in ways that are respectful of people, opinions, communities and cultures
- contribute to group efforts to reach consensus or conclusions, by engaging in dialogue to understand the ideas and viewpoints of others
- share responsibility for the completion of team projects by establishing clear purpose and procedures for solving problems, monitoring progress and making modifications to meet stated objectives


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| Required Subject Areas. *Students take:* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English Language Arts | Mathematics | Science | Social Studies | Physical Education | Health and Life Skills |
| Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is integrated throughout English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. | | | | | |

# Mathematics

View the mathematics subject page at http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/math/

The aim of the mathematics program is to prepare students to:

- use mathematics confidently to solve problems
- communicate and reason mathematically
- appreciate and value mathematics
- commit themselves to lifelong learning
- become mathematically literate adults, using mathematics to contribute to society.

Students learn to use the following mathematical processes:

- communicate mathematically
- connect mathematical ideas to everyday experiences and to other subject areas
- use estimation and mental mathematics where appropriate
- apply new mathematical knowledge to problem solving
- reason and justify their thinking
- use appropriate technologies
- use visualization to assist in problem solving, processing information and making connections.

**The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 9 Mathematics Program of Studies.**

### Number

- explain and illustrate the structure and the interrelationship of the sets of numbers within the rational number system
- develop a number sense of powers with integral exponents and rational bases
- use a scientific calculator or a computer to solve problems involving rational numbers
- explain how exponents can be used to bring meaning to large and small numbers, and use calculators or computers to perform calculations involving these numbers

### Patterns and Relations

- generalize, design and justify mathematical procedures, using appropriate patterns, models and technology
- solve and verify linear equations and inequalities in one variable
- generalize arithmetic operations from the set of rational numbers to the set of polynomials


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| | |
|---|---|
| **Shape and Space** | • use trigonometric ratios to solve problems involving a right triangle<br>• describe the effects of dimension changes in related 2-D shapes and 3-D objects in solving problems involving area, perimeter, surface area and volume<br>• specify conditions under which triangles may be similar or congruent, and use these conditions to solve problems<br>• use spatial problem solving in building, describing and analyzing geometric shapes<br>• apply coordinate geometry and pattern recognition to predict the effects of translations, rotations, reflections and dilatations on 1-D lines and 2-D shapes |
| **Statistics and Probability** | • collect and analyze experimental results expressed in two variables, using technology, as required<br>• explain the use of probability and statistics in the solution of complex problems |


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| Required Subject Areas. *Students take:* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English Language Arts | Mathematics | Science | Social Studies | Physical Education | Health and Life Skills |
| Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is integrated throughout English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. | | | | | |

## Science

View the science subject page at http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/science/

The aim of the science program is to provide opportunities for students to develop knowledge and skills that help them understand and interpret the world around them. Students learn basic concepts from earth, physical and life sciences. Students will develop skills of inquiry and experimentation and will solve practical problems, find and evaluate information, and apply what they have learned.

Nature of Science, Science and Technology, and Science, Technology and Society are three themes that are developed throughout the science program.

In a Catholic school, students are invited to consider how issues of stewardship, morals, ethics and Catholic teaching can be integrated appropriately into the science curriculum.

**The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 9 Science Program of Studies.**

**Diversity of Living Things**

- describe the diversity of living things, using examples of structural and behavioural adaptations
- distinguish between selective breeding and natural selection
- identify similarities and differences of major groups of living things

**Fluids and Pressure**

- describe properties of fluids (liquids and gases) that make them useful in technological devices
- interpret various technologies used in the movement and control of fluids
- design a device, using the concepts of fluid movement

**Heat Energy: Transfer and Conservation**

- explain and apply the particle theory in a variety of situations
- identify and interpret heat transfer processes of conduction, convection and radiation
- demonstrate that the materials and/or design of an object may affect the amount of heat gained or lost

**Electromagnetic Systems**

- describe the various technologies used to produce electrical currents
- design and construct a simple device that operates on the basis of electromagnetic force
- design and construct a circuit that will respond to a changing environmental condition

**Chemical Properties and Changes**

- observe and measure properties of different materials
- distinguish and interpret physical and chemical properties of common household materials
- observe and measure different variables in chemical reactions
- evaluate methods of preventing oxidation (rusting) and corrosion in particular applications

**Environmental Quality**

- describe changes in the ability of environments to support life
- describe procedures used to measure environmental pollutants
- use scientific knowledge to make informed decisions about the environment
- identify personal actions that affect environmental quality


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| Required Subject Areas. *Students take:* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English Language Arts | Mathematics | Science | Social Studies | Physical Education | Health and Life Skills |
| Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is integrated throughout English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. | | | | | |

# Social Studies

View the social studies subject page at http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/social/

The aim of the social studies program is to help students gain basic knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to become responsible citizens and contributing members of society. Social studies includes the study of history, geography, economics, the behavioural sciences and humanities.

Grade 9 social studies focuses on different perspectives of economic growth. The content is organized around three topics; and in each topic, students are expected to address at least one issue and one question for inquiry.

In a Catholic school, students are invited to consider how issues of social justice, the contribution of the Church to community (locally and globally), and Church teaching can be integrated appropriately into the social studies curriculum.

**The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 9 Social Studies Program of Studies.**

**Economic Growth: U.S.A.**

- describe some important influences upon industrialization in the United States
- explain the role technology, labour, government and specific individuals have played in the economic growth of the United States
- evaluate the effect of a market economy on the individual
- identify points of view expressed in cartoons, pictures and photographs
- appreciate the need for a balance between freedom and responsibility
- have empathy for people who have been affected by change

**Economic Growth: A Case Study of the Former U.S.S.R.**

- describe how geography and history influenced the industrial development of the former Soviet Union
- explain the role that government and significant individuals had in developing the economy of the former Soviet Union
- evaluate the effect of a centrally planned economy on the individual and on economic growth
- appreciate the ways different economic systems meet the needs of people

**Canada: Responding to Change**

- explain ways that government and individuals can influence technological change
- determine and express an opinion on the extent that governments should influence economic growth
- determine the role of labour and management in responding to technological change
- evaluate the effect of continued economic growth on the physical and social environments
- read and interpret maps to uncover relationships between geography and industrialization in Canada
- classify industries as primary, secondary and tertiary
- identify, understand and discuss issues of significance to the future of Canada and Canadians


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| Required Subject Areas. *Students take:* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English Language Arts | Mathematics | Science | Social Studies | Physical Education | Health and Life Skills |
| Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is integrated throughout English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. | | | | | |

## Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

View the information and communication technology subject page at http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/ict/

The ICT curriculum is not intended to stand alone as a course, but rather to be infused within English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Schools have until June 2003 to phase in the program. The outcomes are organized by divisions; Division 3 is Grade 7 to Grade 9.

Students learn about the nature of technology, how to use and apply a variety of technologies, and the importance of technology to self and society.

**The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 7 to Grade 9 Information and Communication Technology Program of Studies.**

**Communicating, Inquiring, Decision Making and Problem Solving**

- evaluate the authority and reliability of electronic sources
- develop a process to manage volumes of information that can be made available through electronic sources
- articulate clearly a plan of action to use technology to solve a problem

**Foundational Operations, Knowledge and Concepts**

- explain how the need for global communication affects technology around the world
- explain the issues involved in balancing the right to access information with the right to personal privacy
- describe the impact of communication technologies on past, present and future workplaces, lifestyles and the environment
- recognize that the ability of technology to manipulate images and sound can alter the meaning of a communication

**Processes for Productivity**

- create multimedia presentations that take into account diverse audiences
- use advanced word processing menu features to accomplish a task
- design, create and modify a database for a specific purpose


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| Required Subject Areas. *Students take:* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English Language Arts | Mathematics | Science | Social Studies | Physical Education | Health and Life Skills |
| Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is integrated throughout English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. | | | | | |

# Physical Education

View the physical education subject page at http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/physed/

The aim of the K–12 physical education program is to enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to lead an active, healthy lifestyle. Students participate in a variety of physical activities: dance, games, types of gymnastics, individual activities and activities in alternative environments, such as aquatics and outdoor pursuits. All learning outcomes are to be met through these activities.

Within Catholic schools, some of the values integrated into the Physical Education program include recognizing the dignity of each person as evident in their unique gifts and talents, community building, cooperation and shared responsibility, respect and care for the body.

**The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 9 Physical Education Program of Studies.**

## Activity

**Basic Skills**
- apply and refine locomotor, nonlocomotor and manipulative skills, by using elements of body and space awareness, effort and relationships, to improve personal performance

**Application of Basic Skills**
- apply and refine activity-specific skills in a variety of individual pursuits; e.g., fitness activities
- create and plan activities that emphasize specific strategies and tactics to coordinate effort with others; e.g., team/fair play, in order to achieve a common activity goal

## Benefits Health

**Functional Fitness**
- design and implement a personal fitness and activity plan, using the principles of training: frequency, intensity, duration

**Body Image**
- discuss the effects of performance-enhancing substances on body type and body image as a part of physical activity

**Well-being**
- analyze and explain the effects that nutrition, fitness and physical activity have on body systems before, during and after exercise

## Cooperation

**Communication**
- identify and discuss the positive behaviours that are demonstrated by active living role models

**Fair Play**
- demonstrate etiquette and fair play


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**Leadership**

- describe, apply, monitor and practise leadership and followership skills related to physical activity

**Teamwork**

- identify, develop and demonstrate positive behaviours that show respect for self and others

**Do It Daily ... for Life!**

**Effort**

- develop a personal plan that encourages participation and continued motivation

**Safety**

- design safe movement experiences that promote an active, healthy lifestyle; e.g., student-created games

**Goal Setting/Personal Challenge**

- evaluate different ways to achieve an activity goal, and determine personal and team approaches that are challenging for both the individual and the group

**Active Living in the Community**

- evaluate community programs that promote physically active lifestyles, and evaluate how they meet local needs

**Exemptions from Physical Education**

Exemptions from participation in physical education may be given for medical conditions, when accompanied by a medical certification from a doctor to the principal; for religious beliefs, when accompanied by a statement in writing from the parent to the principal; and where access to facilities is prohibitive. When exemption is granted, activities consistent with the program outcomes should be substituted where appropriate.

**Physical Education Online**

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/physicaleducationonline

The Physical Education Online Web site provides a wealth of information to support student learning of the K–12 physical education program of studies. The site is organized into three major sections:

- Program of Studies
- Teacher Resources
- Home Education


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| Required Subject Areas. *Students take:* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English Language Arts | Mathematics | Science | Social Studies | Physical Education | Health and Life Skills |
| Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is integrated throughout English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. | | | | | |

## Health and Life Skills

View the health and life skills subject page at http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/healthpls/

The aim of the health and life skills program is to enable students to make well-informed, healthy choices and to develop behaviours that contribute to the well-being of self and others. A comprehensive health program involves a partnership among home, school and community.

In a Catholic school, learning outcomes are addressed within the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church. The local boards of many Catholic school jurisdictions have approved supplementary resources and adapted the curriculum to better meet the needs of their students, their families and their faith communities.

**The following learning outcomes from the Health and Life Skills Program of Studies are taught from a Catholic viewpoint and perspective.**

### Wellness Choices

**Personal Health/Safety and Responsibility**

- make responsible and informed choices to maintain and to promote safety for self and others. God gives us the gifts of life and health; we are called to care for and respect these precious gifts

### Relationship Choices

**Understanding and Expressing Feelings/Interactions/Group Roles and Processes**

- develop effective interpersonal skills that demonstrate responsibility, respect and caring in order to establish and maintain healthy interactions. The glory of God is in fully alive people who revere the dignity that all persons share by virtue of being created in God's image and likeness

### Life Learning Choices

**Learning Strategies/Life Roles and Career Development/ Volunteerism**

- use resources effectively to manage and explore life roles and career opportunities and challenges. Our Christian vocation is to use our gifts, talents and the resources available to us in building God's reign of peace and love by serving others

### Human Sexuality Education

Human sexuality education emphasizes the individual nature of change and growth, and the importance of one's family and personal values with respect to sexuality and sexual decision making. Learning outcomes are addressed within the context of Catholic teaching.

Schools are required to offer human sexuality education in Grade 4 to Grade 9. Parents have the right to exempt their child from this instruction. Schools will provide alternative learning experiences for those students who have been exempted from human sexuality instruction.


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## *Optional Courses*

In addition to required subject areas, junior high schools must offer a minimum of two provincially authorized optional courses. Optional courses are designed to reinforce learnings in core courses and to provide opportunities for students to explore areas of interest and career possibilities.

The range of optional courses offered varies from school to school depending on such factors as student and parent preferences, facilities and staffing.

| **Optional Courses.** ***Students may select from:*** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Career and Technology Studies (CTS) | Fine and Performing Arts | Languages Other than English | Environmental and Outdoor Education | Ethics | Locally Developed Courses |

## Career and Technology Studies (CTS)

View the career and technology studies subject page at http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/cts/

Career and Technology Studies (CTS) is an optional program designed for Alberta's secondary school students. CTS helps junior high and senior high school students to:

- develop skills they can apply in daily living now and in the future
- investigate career options and make effective career choices
- use technology (processes, tools and techniques) effectively and efficiently
- apply and reinforce learnings developed in other subject areas
- prepare for entry into the workplace or further learning.

The CTS curriculum is organized into 22 strands. Each strand represents a group of courses designed to support broad career and occupational opportunities. Courses are the building blocks for each strand, and they define what a student is expected to know and be able to do.

New courses for the 2002–2003 school year include:

- Communication Technology—Digital Imaging 1; Digital Imaging 2; Digital Imaging 3
- Information Processing—Computer Science 1; Computer Science 2; Computer Science 3; Object-oriented Programming 1; Object-oriented Programming 2; Dynamic Data Structures 1; Dynamic Data Structures 2

The 22 Career and Technology Studies program strands are:

Agriculture
Career Transitions
Communication Technology
Community Health
Construction Technologies
Cosmetology Studies
Design Studies
Electro-Technologies
Energy and Mines
Enterprise and Innovation
Fabrication Studies
Fashion Studies
Financial Management
Foods
Forestry
Information Processing
Legal Studies
Logistics
Management and Marketing
Mechanics
Tourism Studies
Wildlife


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| Optional Courses. *Students may select from:* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Career and Technology Studies (CTS) | Fine and Performing Arts | Languages Other than English | Environmental and Outdoor Education | Ethics | Locally Developed Courses |

## Fine and Performing Arts

Through the Fine and Performing Arts courses of Art, Drama and Music, students develop self-awareness and express their creativity in many ways. They will respond personally and critically to a variety of art, drama and music styles and forms.

View the fine arts subject page at http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/finearts/

In a Catholic school, students are invited to consider how the knowledge, skills and values studied within the fine arts curriculum can be used to understand the religious dimensions of art, liturgy, music and history. They are also used directly to enhance the religious and spiritual culture of the school, and to celebrate the various liturgical feasts of the year.

### Art

Students learn how to use traditional and contemporary tools, materials and media to express their feelings, think like artists, value the art creation and value the art form. Three areas form the framework of the junior high school art program:

- Drawings—recording, investigating, communicating, evaluating and articulating aspects of making images
- Compositions—organizations, components and relationships involved in the creation of images
- Encounters—looking at images and artifacts, finding ideas for making art, learning about the art of other times, changing imagery, and learning to understand and appreciate the purposes and effects of art

### Drama

Drama encourages students to explore a variety of dramatic roles and develop a range of dramatic skills. In the junior high school drama program, students learn about drama and theatre through:

- Movement—physical, nonverbal expression
- Speech—exploration of talking and speaking to communicate ideas effectively
- Improvisation/Acting—acting out an idea or situation
- Theatre Studies—an introduction to the elements of drama and theatre
- Technical Theatre—stage construction and the use of sound, lighting, makeup, costumes, sets and props.

### Music

Instrumental music, choral music and general music are the three distinctive, yet related, programs in the junior high school music curriculum. Development in any of these programs requires student involvement as a performer, listener and composer. Five main goals of the junior high school music program are to:

- develop skills in listening to, performing and reading music
- strive for musical excellence
- understand, evaluate and appreciate a variety of music styles
- develop self-expression, creativity and communication through music
- increase awareness of the history of music and the role of music in own lives.


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| Optional Courses. *Students may select from:* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Career and Technology Studies (CTS) | Fine and Performing Arts | Languages Other than English | Environmental and Outdoor Education | Ethics | Locally Developed Courses |

# Languages Other than English

A variety of courses and programs in languages other than English are available throughout Alberta. Some of these include Aboriginal languages, French, German and Ukrainian.

Students registered in an **immersion** or a **bilingual program** follow a language arts course in the target language (e.g., French, Ukrainian) in addition to studying English language arts. In these programs, the target language is also used as the language of instruction in other subject areas, such as mathematics, science and social studies.

## Aboriginal Languages

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/aborigin

Blackfoot and Cree language and culture programs are designed to enable students to learn Aboriginal languages and to increase awareness of Aboriginal cultures.

**The following learning outcomes are selected from the Blackfoot and Cree Language and Culture Programs of Study.**

- learn basic communication skills in Blackfoot or Cree
- develop cultural sensitivity, and enhance personal development
- develop originality and creativity
- develop a desire to improve competency in Blackfoot or Cree

## French Immersion Program

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/quicklinks/seclang.asp

In Alberta, many students have the opportunity to study in a French immersion program. This program, designed for non-French speaking students, offers an effective way for students to become functionally fluent in French while achieving all of the learning outcomes of the regular programs of study. Graduates from French immersion programs achieve a level of fluency in the target language that allows them to pursue their post-secondary studies in French or to accept employment in a workplace where French is the main language of communication.

There are many delivery models for French immersion present in Alberta schools:

- Early immersion—students begin their immersion experience in Kindergarten and continue in the program to Grade 12.
- Late immersion—the entry point is typically Grade 7.

Courses offered in the French language have as their basis a French version of the English program of studies, which is identical or comparable to the one used in the English program. The exception is Grade 1 to Grade 3 Social Studies. However, a program of studies specific to French immersion students was developed for the learning/teaching of French language arts. Some of the main French language arts learning outcomes are presented in the following section, French Language Arts.

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/french/YYCHWE/Home.htm

A resource that may be helpful to parents is *Yes, You Can Help! Information and Inspiration for French Immersion Parents*. It is available on the Alberta Learning Web site or for purchase from the LRC.


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## French Language Arts

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/french/FLA/default.asp

The junior high school French language arts program continues the learning started at the elementary level.

Students learn to apply the basic rules of oral and written language, and are better able to understand, clarify and express abstract thought. By working individually, in groups or in activities organized by the Francophone community, students monitor and enhance their communication skills. Students become more aware of factors that influence the way they communicate effectively in various contexts.

**The following learning outcomes are selected from the French Language Arts Program of Studies.**

**Oral Comprehension**

- participate in group work situations
- listen to a variety of texts, such as newspaper and magazine articles, short stories, songs, and excerpts from plays or novels
- view audiovisual materials
- gather information to focus listening
- note points on which clarification is needed, and tolerate ambiguity

**Reading Comprehension**

- read and analyze a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts
- read texts taking into account their organization
- develop various ways of annotating texts

**Oral Production**

- demonstrate what is already known and what has been learned about a given subject
- express opinions based on examples from readings, interactions with others and so on
- explore topic-related vocabulary in various contexts
- use expressions or words to describe events and experiences
- use appropriate verb tenses to express past, present and future experiences

**Writing**

- write texts, paying particular attention to the expression of feelings and opinions
- write short stories in which the images created evoke sentiments or emotions
- select a text structure consistent with communicative intent
- organize ideas according to a plan—introduction, development and conclusion
- demonstrate verb agreement when the subject includes nouns and pronouns in different persons
- use appropriate punctuation and spelling


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## French as a Second Language

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/fsl

In Alberta, French as a Second Language (FSL) is a program in which the French language is taught as a subject, often between 20 and 40 minutes a day, to help students develop communication skills, language knowledge and cultural awareness in French.

Depending upon a school board's language policy, French as a second language in junior high schools may be offered as an optional program or it may be a compulsory program. School boards may begin the program at different grade levels, since the program is based on developing language proficiency over a grade or grades without being grade specific. Many schools start the program in Grade 4, but others may not begin until Grade 7 or later.

The program is designed to teach students to:

- understand what they hear and read in French
- communicate their ideas orally and in written form, using an approach that is based on concrete and real-life experiences and situations
- acquire knowledge about local, provincial and national Francophone groups to become more aware of their presence and to understand them better
- develop French language vocabulary and grammar through thematic activities and projects that are related to real-life language experiences
- acquire specific language learning strategies that will help them become better second language learners.

Students entering junior high school may either begin their French language experience or they can continue developing their language proficiency, depending upon the level that was attained in elementary school. It could take students one or more school years to reach a particular language proficiency level, depending upon when the students start the program and how much time is given to French instruction in the school.

The program is organized into three language proficiency levels—Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced. Students in junior high school generally focus on Beginning and Intermediate levels. Each level has its own set of experiences. As students work through these experiences, they develop their ability to understand and communicate in French.

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/french/FSL/whatsnew/FSL_handbook/ab_public.htm

A resource that may be helpful to parents is *French as a Second Language (FSL) Program: A Guide for Parents*. It is available on the Alberta Learning Web site or for purchase from the LRC.


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## German as a Second Language

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/geras2l.pdf

This two-year program is designed to develop effective communication skills in German, as well as develop cultural awareness. It can be taken in Grade 7 and Grade 8, or in Grade 8 and Grade 9.

**The following learning outcomes are selected from the German as a Second Language Program of Studies.**

- demonstrate understanding of familiar questions, statements and instructions
- speak with reasonably correct intonation, rhythm and pronunciation
- reply with an appropriate answer to commonly asked questions and simple questions
- participate in a simple conversation directed by the teacher
- read for specific information and ideas within the range of personal learning experiences and interests
- write familiar German, by:
  - copying
  - writing phrases from memory and dictation
  - composing simple statements and questions
  - answering questions in a controlled or guided context
- demonstrate awareness of the cultural implications of certain common linguistic forms

## Ukrainian Language Arts

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/ukla.pdf

Ukrainian language arts is offered as part of the Ukrainian bilingual program and is designed for native speakers of Ukrainian and for students who speak other languages and wish to learn Ukrainian. The bilingual program begins in Kindergarten and continues through to Grade 12.

**The following learning outcomes are selected from the Ukrainian Language Arts Program of Studies.**

- obtain information from a variety of authentic sources in structured situations
- recognize ideas, options and feelings about social issues that are relevant to them
- convey information on personal and societal topics in structured situations
- use literature and other art forms to reflect creatively upon issues and experiences of relevance to themselves and their peers
- identify similarities and differences in world view of Ukrainians and other cultural groups
- recognize the contribution of Ukrainian culture to Canadian and Western civilization
- recognize strategies that apply to learning
- employ known vocabulary and access needed vocabulary from sources identified by the teacher


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## Ukrainian as a Second Language

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/uk2l.pdf

This program is designed for students who wish to learn to communicate with others in Ukrainian and to preserve Ukrainian language and culture. The program begins in Grade 7 and continues through to Grade 12.

**The following learning outcomes are selected from the Ukrainian as a Second Language Program of Studies.**

- use appropriate social conventions
- ask information about another person, and relay that information
- carry out commands
- ask and tell where people and objects are located, where one lives, simple directions
- ask and tell what one wants to do or needs to do
- count from 1 to 100; and recognize, orally, the ordinal numbers 1 to 10
- ask and tell the parts of the day, days of the week, seasons of the year

In a Catholic school, both within the Religious Education Program and along with the study of the Ukrainian language, many aspects of the life and faith of the Ukrainian Catholic Church are studied and celebrated.

## Other Languages

Many school boards have developed their own programs. Locally developed language programs include: Arabic, Chinese, Chipewyan, German, Hebrew, Italian and Polish. These locally developed courses are based on local needs and demands, and may vary from year to year.

For more information on second language instruction offered in your area, please contact your local school board.


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| Optional Courses. *Students may select from:* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Career and Technology Studies (CTS) | Fine and Performing Arts | Languages Other than English | Environmental and Outdoor Education | Ethics | Locally Developed Courses |

## Environmental and Outdoor Education

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/others/eoed.pdf

In environmental and outdoor education, students develop interest and competence in outdoor studies and develop an understanding of their relationship to the environment. Environmental and outdoor education can be offered as a single course or as a sequence of courses, and includes:

- the basic knowledge, skills and attitudes required for safe and comfortable experiences
- awareness and appreciation of living things
- understanding of basic ecological processes
- skill, judgement, confidence and sensitivity in a range of environmentally responsible activities in outdoor settings
- lifestyle strategies that encourage responsibility for local and global environments.

## Ethics

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/others/jhethics.pdf

The ethics course is designed to help students become contributing, ethical and mature persons, and may be offered in Grade 7, Grade 8 or Grade 9. The aim of the course is to help students become more thoughtful, to think of the interests of others, and to see ethical implications in their daily lives. The ethics course includes:

- working definitions of ethics and values
- decision-making skills
- historical values and traditions
- values of different cultural groups
- responsibility to community.

## Locally Developed Courses

School boards may develop and/or acquire courses that are innovative and responsive to local and individual needs. Contact your local school board to get information about locally developed courses available in your jurisdiction.


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## *Personal and Career Development*

Preparing for life and work is a complex process that begins in the early years of schooling and continues throughout our lives. Alberta schools are taking an active role—along with parents and the community—in helping students move successfully from basic education to further studies and the workplace.

In junior high school, students begin linking their personal aptitudes and goals to possible future careers. They continue to develop life skills, including such employability skills as cooperating with others and being reliable. At this stage, students begin to outline their own learning and career goals.

Personal and career development activities and outcomes are integrated into all junior high school courses and programs. The following junior high school programs focus specifically on these topics: Health and Life Skills, Physical Education, Career and Technology Studies (CTS) and work study.

Many junior high schools organize special career development activities, such as mentoring, job shadowing, portfolios and annual career fairs. Junior high schools encourage students to develop a career plan. Plans should be updated annually and signed by parents and principals. Students typically develop a personal portfolio, including a résumé, and may use a career planner such as the *Middle/Junior High School Student Learning–Career Planner* developed by Alberta Learning.

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/cardir_jr.pdf
[pdf version]

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/JHPlan.doc
[word version]

The *Student Learning–Career Planner Information Booklet* and the *Middle/Junior High School Student Learning–Career Planner* are useful tools for Alberta's secondary school teachers and guidance counsellors as they work with students, parents and other key partners to help students move through the career planning process. The information booklet and junior high school planner are available on the Alberta Learning Web site or for purchase from the LRC.

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/cardir.pdf

## *Planning for Senior High School*

During their junior high years, students make decisions about their senior high school program. It helps to keep in mind that:

- strengths, interests and realistic career paths play a major role in decision making
- specific courses are required for an Alberta High School Diploma or Certificate of Achievement
- knowledge of course sequences is important, because many courses require prerequisites.

Guidance from the school and classroom teacher is available. Planning for senior high school is more effective when students and parents are familiar with requirements and work closely with teachers.

Alberta Learning provides information on planning for senior high school through a variety of resources, including the following:

- *Senior High School Mathematics Programs: Revised Handbook for Parents and Students*
- *Curriculum Handbooks for Parents: Senior High School*

http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/math/whatsnew/intro.asp
http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks/


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# *Feedback Form*

## Curriculum Handbook for Parents 2002–2003: Grade 9

**Catholic School Version**

Please indicate whether you are a:

☐ Parent ☐ Teacher ☐ School Administrator ☐ District Administrator ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Please indicate whether you used:

☐ a print copy ☐ the online format ☐ both

Please respond to the following by placing a check mark under **Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree** or **Strongly Agree**.

| | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. The handbook provides useful information. | | | | |
| 2. The amount of information is appropriate. | | | | |
| 3. The reading level is appropriate. | | | | |
| 4. The layout and organization are user-friendly. | | | | |
| 5. The links to the Alberta Learning Web site are helpful. | | | | |
| 6. Downloading and printing is easy. | | | | |

How can this handbook be made more helpful to parents?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

***Thank you for your feedback.***

***Please send your response to:***

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